

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 09184 01 OF 02 192301Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04
SIL-01 TRSE-00 DHA-05 /066 W
-----130788 192324Z /14

O 192249Z OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5083
INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL
ALL OTHER CANADIAN POSTS POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 OTTAWA 09184

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, ECON, CA
SUBJECT: SPEECH FROM THE THRONE OPENS NEW SESSION OF
PARLIAMENT

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: IN KEEPING WITH TRADITION, SPEECH
FROM THE THRONE, READ BY QUEEN ELIZABETH, PARTLY IN
ENGLISH AND PARTLY IN FRENCH, SKETCHED IN BROAD TERMS THE
GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAM FOR THIS NEW SESSION OF PARLIAMENT.
MOST OF HER REMARKS DEALT WITH THE TWO MAJOR PROBLEMS
FACING THE COUNTRY TODAY, NAMELY, SLUGGISH STATE OF
ECONOMY AND THREAT TO NATIONAL UNITY. THERE WERE NO REAL
SURPRISES ON EITHER SUBJECT, BUT THE GOVERNMENT DID REVEAL
ITS INTENTION TO SUBMIT LATER IN THE SESSION PROPOSALS
FOR CHANGES IN THE CONSTITUTION RELATING TO NATIONAL UNITY.
GENERALLY, THE SPEECH APPEARS TO BE A BROADLY-BASED PLAT-
FORM FOR NEXT YEAR'S FEDERAL ELECTIONS. WE WILL OBTAIN
MORE DETAILS ON THE PROGRAM WHEN TRUDEAU RESPONDS TODAY TO
OPPOSITION COMMENTS ON THE SPEECH AND WHEN FINANCE MINISTER
CHRETIEN SPELS OUT TOMORROW EVENING WHAT REMEDIAL ACTIONS
THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO TAKE TO STIMULATE THE ECONOMY.
END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 OTTAWA 09184 01 OF 02 192301Z

2. THE ECONOMY. THE PRINCIPAL POINTS IN THE SPEECH FROM
THE THRONE WERE: (A) TAX REDUCTION AND INVESTMENT-
INCENTIVE LEGISLATION FIRST PROPOSED IN MARCH BUDGET WILL
BE RE-INTRODUCED TO PROVIDE STIMULUS TO THE ECONOMY AND
TO CREATE JOBS; (B) INCOME AND PRICE CONTROLS WILL CON-
TINUE THROUGH EARLY PART OF 1978, AND A MONITORING AGENCY

WILL BE ESTABLISHED TO ENSURE AN ORDERLY PROCESS OF DE-CONTROL; (C) THE GOVERNMENT WILL WORK WITH THE PROVINCES TOWARD THE GOAL OF SELF-RELIANCE IN THE FIELD OF ENERGY, PARTICULARLY BY ENCOURAGING EXPLORATION AND CONSERVATION; (D) LEGISLATION WILL BE INTRODUCED TO ENHANCE EXPORTS AND TO HELP PRIVATE INDUSTRY IN UNDERTAKING LARGE PROJECTS IN OTHER COUNTRIES; (E) THE GOVERNMENT WILL SEEK APPROVAL OF A BILL TO IMPLEMENT THE US-CANADIAN PIPELINE AGREEMENT WHICH WILL PROVIDE "IMMENSE BENEFITS TO CANADA."

3. NATIONAL UNITY. THIS PORTION OF SPEECH FROM THE THRONE BEGAN WITH REITERATION OF A THEME WHICH HAS BEEN EVIDENT IN MANY OF TRUDEAU'S SPEECHES AND PRESS CONFERENCES OVER PAST YEAR, I.E., UNITY OF THE NATION MUST BE FOUND IN "A GREATER WILLINGNESS TO LISTEN TO EACH OTHER, TO UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER'S NEEDS, A GREATER GENEROSITY BETWEEN INDIVIDUALS AND BETWEEN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE COUNTRY..." ESSENTIALLY, THE SPEECH RE-EMPHASIZED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL WORK WITH THE PROVINCES, PRIVATE GROUPS, AND INDIVIDUALS TO PRESERVE UNITY, BUT THERE IS A LIMIT TO WHAT OTTAWA CAN DO ON BEHALF OF CONFEDERATION. THE GOVERNMENT, HOWEVER, WILL INTRODUCE LATER IN THIS SESSION PROPOSALS RELATING TO THE "ESSENTIAL NATURE OF THE CANADIAN FEDERATION" AND TO "CERTAIN FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS" WHICH "SHOULD BE ENJOYED BY ALL CANADIANS." THE GOVERNMENT WILL ALSO AMEND THE CRIMINAL CODE TO GUARANTEE THE RIGHT

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 OTTAWA 09184 01 OF 02 192301Z

OF ACCUSED PERSONS TO BE TRIED IN THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF THEIR CHOICE, A PROPOSAL WHICH WOULD SEEMINGLY BE IN CONFLICT WITH QUEBEC'S BILL 101.

4. COMMENT: WITH ELECTIONS LIKELY IN 1978, THE GOVERNMENT IS CLEARLY AWARE OF THE POLITICAL DIMENSION OF WHAT THE SPEECH FROM THE THRONE DESCRIBED AS "THE HUMAN HARDSHIPS IMPOSED BY THE CURRENT LEVEL OF UNEMPLOYMENT IN CANADA". THE MEASURES TO ALLEVIATE THIS UNEMPLOYMENT AND TO PROD THE ECONOMY GENERALLY, HOWEVER, ARE LIKELY TO BE MODEST IN VIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT'S CONTINUING CONCERN OVER THE LEVEL OF INFLATION.

5. QUEBEC WAS ONLY MENTIONED TWICE IN BRIEF PASSAGES IN THE SPEECH, BUT THE GOVERNMENT'S PREOCCUPATION WITH THE PARTI QUEBECOIS' DRIVE FOR INDEPENDENCE WAS EVIDENT THROUGHOUT THE LONG SECTION ON NATIONAL UNITY. THE GOVERNMENT CLEARLY RECOGNIZES THE NEED FOR WHAT WAS TERMED "A NEW FEDERALISM", BUT IT REMAINS EXCEEDINGLY VAGUE IN WHAT IT MEANS BY THIS PHRASE. WE EXPECT THAT IT WILL EVENTUALLY PROPOSE CHANGES IN CANADA'S CENTRAL INSTITUTIONS, NOTABLY THE SENATE AND THE SUPREME COURT, AND IT

WILL PUSH FOR THE ADOPTION OF A NEW PREAMBLE TO THE
BRITISH NORTH AMERICAN ACT TO GUARANTEE LANGUAGE AND OTHER
INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS. IT IS LIKELY, HOWEVER, TO REMAIN
LEERY OF ANY PROPOSALS CALLING FOR DECENTRALIZING POWER IN
FAVOR OF THE PROVINCES.

6. THERE WERE BRIEF REFERENCES IN THE SPEECH FROM THE
THRONE TO THE MTN AND TO THE PIPELINE AGREEMENT, BUT THEY
WERE STRICTLY IN THE CONTEXT OF CANADA'S DOMESTIC
ECONOMY. NOTABLY ABSENT FROM THE SPEECH WAS ANY STATE-
MENT ABOUT FOREIGN POLICY OR ANY DESCRIPTION OF CANADA'S

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 09184 02 OF 02 192302Z
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5084

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ALL OTHER CANADIAN POSTS POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 OTTAWA 09184

POSITION IN WORLD AFFAIRS, BEYOND THE PLATITUDE THAT
CANADA'S INFLUENCE IS "STEADILY GROWING IN AN EVOLVING
COMMONWEALTH." THIS OMISSION IS ANOTHER INDICATION OF
CANADA'S CURRENT PREOCCUPATION WITH INTERNAL PROBLEMS.

7. FULL TEXT OF SPEECH HAS BEEN POUCHED TO EUR/CAN.
ENDERS

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